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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware that on account of these frequent burglaries, a great panic prevails in the City of Madras, particularly amongst the Europeans, whose womenfolk are said to be spending sleepless nights?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Is the hon. Member aware that certain articles stolen from Mr. Sydney Smith were mysteriously restored to him?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I do not know."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware that the detection is becoming more difficult because of the failure of the new scheme that has been launched?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I do not think it is so."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware of the widespread feeling among the public in the City that on account of the division of labour that has been effected in the City Police Force in the year 1928, the efficiency of the Police force has gone down considerably, and that therefore the system should be scrapped?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that complaints have been made to the effect that the increase and non-detection of cases of burglary is due to some Police people themselves being privy to the burglaries?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I refuse to answer that question."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether he is prepared to appoint a committee to enquire into and report whether this division of labour has been conducive to effective and efficient detection of crimes?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Alleged beating of Mr. Bashyam and others in Godown Street.

* 280-A Q.—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state in detail the events that led to the beating of Mr. K. Bashyam, an Advocate, and Mr. V. A. Sundaram and other picketers in the Godown Street, in the Madras City, on 28th January 1931?

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Sir, in reply to this short-notice question, may I have your permission to make the following statement.

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'A.—At about 3-30 p.m. on 28th January 1931 a batch of eight volunteers under the leadership of Messrs. K. Bashyam and V. A. Sundaram of Bombay carrying national flags entered Godown Street from the south and moved along it distributing Tamil pamphlets summarizing Mr. Gandhi's statement on release, including a direction that boycott of foreign cloth should be carried on as usual. An appeal was made to the public to obey these orders and the crowd following shouted 'Gandhi-ki-jai'. This batch of volunteers finally came to a halt in front of some shops in the middle of Godown Street and started picketing. The crowd swelled until the narrow road was completely blocked and traffic became impossible. Confusion and excitement prevailed, and the mob began to get out of control. The Assistant Commissioner, Northern Range, on hearing a report of the situation proceeded to the spot with a party of police, some on foot and some in a bus. Business in the street was at a standstill, and vehicular traffic was congested to such an extent that no way could be made through a surging and exciting crowd. Stones began to be thrown at the police. The patrol bus could not be taken further up to clear the road of the mob. It was only then when actual rioting seemed imminent the Assistant Commissioner, Northern Range, was reluctantly constrained to declare the assembly to be unlawful and ordered them to disperse. The picketers refused to do so and Mr. K. Bashyam stiffened their resistance by crying out "We are members of an unlawful assembly". The crowd had therefore to be forcibly dispersed and in the course of doing so Mr. K. Bashyam (and perhaps one or two others) appear to have received slight injuries. Mr. K. Bashyam was however shown every consideration by the police so far as his contumacious attitude permitted and when, after the other picketers had dispersed, it was found that his own car was not available to take him home, he was offered and accepted a seat in the police bus.'

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know, Sir, from the hon. the Home Member who prepared the statement for him?" 11-45 a.m.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The statement was prepared by my office under my directions."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"Was it prepared when the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police were present?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"No, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know whether the hon. Member got this information from anybody else than the Police?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I got it from the Commissioner of Police."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the statement made in the newspapers that Mr. Bashyam was left stranded in Chetput is true?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I am not aware of it."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether, before furnishing the statement, the Government have taken care to verify the information given by the Police ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The Government need not verify it when a responsible officer furnishes the information."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—"Has the hon. the Home Member read the statement of Mr. Bashyam published in the *Hindu* of yesterday ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"Yes."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—"Has he been able to refer that matter to the Commissioner of Police ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"No."

Mr. Yakub Hasan Sahib :—"May I know if the statement read out is the statement of the Police or the statement of the hon. the Home Member ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"It is a statement based on the report of the Commissioner of Police."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"It was said in the statement that business was at a standstill in the Godown Street. May I know whether responsible business people of the locality made any complaint, written or oral ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"It is not necessary that they should make any complaint."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know, Sir, why these picketers were not arrested ? They were only eight in number. The heavens won't fall !"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"It is left to the discretion of the police."

Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar :—"May I know whether anybody dealing in foreign cloth in the Godown Street complained to the police against the picketers ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"No."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"Is it not a fact that Mr. Bashyam was beaten while he was seated in the veranda of a shop in the Godown Street ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I have nothing to add to what I said."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—"Will the Government be pleased to transfer Inspector Currie to the Agency ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"No."

Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari :—"Is it true that the hon. the Home Member had a conference with the police officials yesterday ?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know, Sir, if there was any attempt made by Mr. Bashyam and Mr. Sundaram to avoid arrest ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"They were not arrested at all."

Mr. B. POCKER SAHIB :—"Why were they not arrested ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is left to the police."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—"Is it not a fact that inconvenience was caused to the business people in that street owing to the action of the police ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am not aware of it."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member, in view of the questions and answers, to issue instructions to the police to arrest the picketers at once and prevent all this trouble hereafter ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"These are all matters that ought to be left to the discretion of the police."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Has it struck the hon. the Home Member that this kind of action of the police is likely to nullify the good results of the Round Table Conference ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Why not the action of the picketers by going to the Godown street ?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether he has personally satisfied himself with regard to the verity of the facts supplied to him by the police ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Certainly."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Has he assured himself that whatever the police have said is gospel truth ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"After receiving the police report, I discussed the matter with the Commissioner of Police and the Inspector-General of Police, and I do not see any reason why I should not believe it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not the duty of the Member of Government presiding over this department to make enquiries instead of merely relying on the reports received from the police ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have made the necessary enquiries in the matter."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"What are the enquiries ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am not prepared to say anything further."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It was said that the police officer offered a seat in the Police van to Mr. Bashyam. May I know where Mr. Bashyam was dropped ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" If the hon. Member wants the information, I shall enquire. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" In view of the statement made by Mr. Bashyam in yesterday's newspapers, what does the hon. the Home Member propose to do ? Is he prepared to make an enquiry into the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" May I know whether any enquiries were made of the merchants in the Godown street or of those nearabout the scene of occurrence in connexion with this matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—' May I know the limitations for the use of force for dispersing such a gathering of picketers ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" My hon. Friend will find it by reading sections 127 and 128 of the Criminal Procedure Code."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether any amount of force can be used by the police for the purpose of dispersing assemblies ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have already answered it."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" Has the hon. the Home Member satisfied himself, in the light of the questions put on the floor of this House, that the police in their action kept themselves within the bounds of law ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" There is nothing wrong. "

Mr. YAKUB HASAN SAHIB :—" As regards the statement just read out, I understood that the hon. the Home Member asked you, Mr. President, to allow him to read his statement on the subject. But, in answer to a supplementary question put to him he said that his statement was based on the report furnished to him by the police. When the hon. Member has turned the report that was given to him by the police into a statement of his own, has he taken the trouble to ascertain that all that was reported to him was quite correct ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have followed the usual course adopted by my hon. Colleagues of the Government, and that is we always make our statement from the official reports that we receive. "

Mr. B. POCKER SAHIB : —" Does the hon. Member think that his responsibility ceases by reading a report from the Police officer like a gramophone ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have nothing to add to what I said."

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Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"With reference to the allegation in the statement that Mr. Bashyam received only slight injuries, may I ask whether anybody who kindly saw the injuries on the person of Mr. Bashyam had any contribution to the making of that statement? I have myself seen his injuries."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know if the hon. Member is aware that the police bus in which Mr. Bashyam was taken did not take him to his residence?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I shall make enquiries."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Is the hon. Member aware that he was dropped in Harrington Road?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It may be so."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Purchase of Hotel Cecil at Vizagapatam for the Andhra University.

281 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra University has recommended the purchase of Hotel Cecil and its grounds of 28 acres at Vizagapatam at a cost of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs;

(b) whether he has approved of the recommendation?

A.—(a) It is a fact that the University suggested at one time the acquisition of this property among others. No estimate of cost was received from that body.

(b) No.

Government's policy towards the development of the Andhra University.

282 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI : Will the hon the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether he will lay on the table of the House a statement showing the policy of the Government towards the educational and administrative development of the Andhra University?

A.—The question of the educational and administrative development of the University is primarily for consideration by that body.

Grants to the Andhra University for building purposes.

283 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether he will lay on the table of the House the correspondence up to date between the Government of Madras and the Andhra University on the subject of the grant of Rs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for building purposes;